2. Setting up of a "Centenary Museum" at Digboi.

3. Release of a commemorative stamp by the Department of Posts along with a first day cover.

Demand and production of CNG

272. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CNG is in high demand to control pollution in metro cities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide CNG on priority;

(c) the total production of CNG annually *vis-a-vis* the demand; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the gap between supply and demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) At present the supply of CNG is limited to the two cities of Delhi and Mumbai among the Metros. 87 stations in Delhi and 24 in Mumbai have already been opened to provide CNG to vehicles.

(c) There is no production of CNG. Natural gas is merely compressed to a high pressure for use in vehicles. Total allocation of Natural Gas to Mumbai and Delhi is 1.08 MMSCMD, which is greater than present demand.

(d) As on date there is no shortage of CNG *vis-a-vis* demand. However keeping in view the future demand of vehicles for CNG, measures are being taken to increase the number of stations and to enhance the compression capacity.

Trade restriction on dealers

273. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum dealers are restrained from doing other business or profession after or before commissioning their dealerships/distributorships;

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting such candidates as dealers who are already showing income less than 2 lakhs from other business;

(c) if not, whether the Oil Corporation can terminate the dealership/

distributorship of such dealers who are doing other additional business or profession in addition to the dealerships etc; and

(d) whether such restrictions is tenable in law and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) According to the guidelines for selection of retail outlet dealers/LPG distributors/SKO-LDO dealers issued by the Government, a person selected for the dealership/ distributorship shall be a full time working dealer/distributor and his annual income should not exceed Rs. 2 lakhs per annum for the purposes of selection as a dealer/distributor. The person selected, if employed, before issuance of the Letter of Appointment, should produce the proof of acceptance of his/her resignation by his/her employer.

No other conditionalities relating to income in post-appointment scenario are applicable as per the extent guidelines except the one relating to full time attention.

Remuneration to labour contractors of COCO pumps

274. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed Oil Corporation to calculate and pay the remuneration to labour contractors of COCO pumps as per the minimum wages fixed by the State Government;

(b) if so, whether this policy of payment is applicable from the dates of appointments of COCO pump Labour contractors;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, whether the Regional/Divisional Offices have been directed to calculate and pay the remuneration to such contractors as per the minimum wages fixed in respective States from the dates of commissioning of such pumps for the sake of labour welfare; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) As per the existing policy, the labour contractors of COCO retail outlets are paid a lumpsum amount